

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device having a primary game comprising:

a plurality of independently operable identical sets of reels, each set of reels having a plurality of reels;

a plurality of identical sets of symbols on each of said sets of reels;

a plurality of paylines associated with each of said sets of reels, wherein the paylines associated exclusively with each of said sets of reels are not associated with any of the reels in any of the other of said sets of reels;

a display device adapted to simultaneously display said sets of reels; and

a processor which communicates with said display device, which enables the player to wager on said paylines associated with said plurality of sets of reels, which evaluates each of said sets of reels wagered on by the player for winning combinations of said symbols on any of said paylines and which for each set of reels wagered on provides payouts to the player based on ~~the combinations of symbols~~ and the player's wager on said set of reels and the combinations of symbols occurring on the paylines associated with said set of reels, regardless of the combinations of symbols occurring on any other of said sets of reels.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on predetermined combinations of said symbols to occur on at least one of said paylines.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on a predetermined combination of said symbols to occur on a plurality of the paylines associated with at least two of said sets of reels.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on a predetermined combination of said symbols to occur on at least one of said paylines associated with each of said sets of reels.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on one or a combination of said sets of reels where a predetermined combination of said symbols will occur on a payline.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on one or a combination of said set of reels wherein a predetermined combination of said symbols will not occur on said paylines.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said processor enables the player to wager on at least one of the paylines associated with a second set of said sets of reels when the player wagers on all of said paylines associated with a first set of said sets of reels.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising of:

a plurality of sets of reels;

a plurality of identical sets of symbols on each of said sets of reels;

a plurality of paylines associated with each of said sets of reels, wherein the paylines associated exclusively with each of said sets of reels are not associated with any of the reels in any of the other of said sets of reels;

a display device; and

a processor which communicates with said display device, wherein said processor and said display device simultaneously display said plurality of sets of reels, enables the player to wager on said paylines associated with said plurality of sets of reels, simultaneously spins each of said sets of reels wagered on by the player, evaluates each of said sets of reels wagered on by the player for predetermined combinations of said symbols, and for each set of reels wagered on, provides the player any award associated with said predetermined combinations of symbols obtained on the said set of reels regardless of the predetermined combinations of symbols occurring on any other of said sets of reels.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said processor and display device are adapted to enable the player to wager on predetermined combinations of said symbols to occur on at least one of said paylines.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said processor and display device are adapted to enable the player to wager on a predetermined combination of said symbols to occur on a plurality of the paylines associated with at least two of said sets of reels.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said processor and display device are adapted to enable the player to wager on one of said symbols to occur on at least one of said paylines associated with each of said sets of reels.

Claim 12 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said processor and display device are adapted to enable the player to wager on one or a combination of said sets of reels to have a predetermined combination of said symbols occur on a payline.

Claim 13 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said processor and display device are adapted to enable the player to wager on one or a combination of said set of reels where a predetermined combination of said symbols will not occur on said paylines.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said processor enables the player to wager on at least one of the paylines associated with another said set of reels when the player wagers on all of said paylines associated with one of said sets of reels.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A gaming device having a primary game comprising:

a plurality of sets of reels, each set of reels having a plurality of reels;

a plurality of symbols which are identical on each of said sets of reels;

a plurality of paylines associated with each of said sets of reels, wherein the paylines associated exclusively with each of said sets of reels are not associated with any of the reels in any of the other of said sets of reels;

a display device adapted to simultaneously display said sets of reels; and

a processor which controls said display device, evaluates a wager made by a player, places said wager on one of said paylines associated with a first set of said sets of reels, and places a subsequent wager on one of said paylines associated with a second of said sets of reels if all of said paylines associated with said first set of reels are wagered on by the player, and for each set of reels wagered on, provides the player any award associated with said predetermined combinations of symbols occurring on the paylines wagered on by the player associated with said set of reels regardless of the combinations of symbols occurring on any other of said sets of reels.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on individual paylines associated with said sets of reels.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on predetermined combinations of said symbols to occur on at least one of said paylines associated with said sets of reels.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on a predetermined combination of said symbols to occur on a plurality of the paylines associated with at least two of said sets of reels.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on one of said symbols to occur on at least one of said paylines associated with each of said sets of reels.

Claim 20 (original): The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on one or a combination of said sets of reels where a predetermined combination of said symbols will occur on one of said paylines.

Claim 21 (original): The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on one or a combination of said set of reels where a predetermined combination of said symbols will not occur on said paylines.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A gaming device having a primary game comprising:

a plurality of sets of reels, each set of reels having a plurality of reels;

a plurality of symbols which are identical on each of said sets of reels;

a plurality of paylines associated with each of said sets of reels, wherein the paylines associated exclusively with each of said sets of reels are not associated with any of the reels in any of the other of said sets of reels;

a display device adapted to simultaneously display said sets of reels; and

a processor which controls said display device, and which enables the player to wager on at least one of the sets of reels having which the player believes will indicate a winning symbol or combination of said symbols on any of said paylines associated with said set of reels and wager on another of said of reels which the player does not believe will indicate a winning symbol or combination of said symbols on said paylines associated with said another set of reels.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on said paylines associated with said sets of reels.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on predetermined combinations of said symbols to occur on at least one of said paylines associated with said sets of reels.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on a predetermined combination of said symbols to occur on a plurality of the paylines associated with at least two of said sets of reels.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on one of said symbols to occur on at least one of said paylines associated with each of said sets of reels.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein said processor enables the player to wager on at least one payline associated with another of said sets of reels when the player wagers on all of said paylines associated with one of said sets of reels.

Claim 28 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on one or a combination of said set of reels where a predetermined combination of said symbols will not occur on said paylines.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein said processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on one or a combination of said sets of reels where a predetermined combination of said symbols will occur on said paylines.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on said paylines associated with at least one of said sets of reels without wagering on the other sets of reels.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein the processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on said paylines associated with at least one of said sets of reels without wagering on the other sets of reels.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein the processor is adapted to enable the player to wager on said paylines associated with at least one of said sets of reels without wagering on the other sets of reels.

Claim 33 (canceled)